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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /071 W
---------- 115933
R 121541Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3828

USIA FOR IOP/, IB, IP, IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD, UR, US
SUBJECT: NOVOYE VREMYA DENIES SALT VIOLATIONS, COMMENTS ON
B-1 AND TRIDENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 0007, (B) MOSCOW 3359, (C) 75 MOSCOW 18044

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET NATIONAL NEWS WEEKLY HAS AGAIN DENIED
THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS VIOLATING THE SALT AGREEMENTS.
IN SO DOING IT LARGELY FOLLOWS THE LINE OF THE OBSERVER
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ARTICLE IN PRAVDA JAN 1 (REF A) BUT GOES BEYOND IT: WHILE

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THE LATTER CLEARLY STATED THAT AT THE TIME THE SOVIET UNION HAD STILL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON U.S. ACTIVITIES REGARDING ITS SALT OBLIGATIONS, THE PRESENT ARTICLE IMPLIES THAT THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP. THE ARTICLE REPEATS BREZHNEV'S ASSERTIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROPOSED LIMITING THE B-1, TRIDENT, AND SIMILAR SOVIET SYSTEMS, AND IN ITS HANDLING OF THE SUBJECT IMPLIES THAT SUCH ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO BAN NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW). THIS CONTRADICTS A RECENT EXPLANATION OF MDW GIVEN US BY AN MFA OFFICIAL WHO SHOULD KNOW--BUT SUPPORTS ANOTHER EXPLANATION MADE RECENTLY BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE USA INSTITUTE. ON THE MDW, CLEARLY, THE SOVIET BUREARCRACY IS STILL WANDERING IN A FOG. END SUMMARY.

2. NOVOYE VREMYA ON MARCH 12 AGAIN DENIES THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS VIOLATED THE SALT AGREEMENT. ANSWERING A QUESTION POSED IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY AN AMERICAN READER, THE MAGAZINE'S DEPUTY EDITOR, MIKHAIL FEDOROV, ASSERTS THAT HE QUESTIONED "COMPETENT OFFICIALS" IN MOSCOW AND WAS (NOT SURPRISINGLY) TOLD THAT THERE "IS NOT A GRAIN OF TRUTH" IN ACCUSATIONS THAT THE USSR IS BUILDING SILOS CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT OR THAT IT IS USING "LASER DEVICES ON ITS SATELLITES ANDMMMIS USING LASER BEAMS TO DISTURB AMERICAN EFFORTS TO FOLLOW SOVIET MISSILE ACTIVITIES." FEDOROV SAYS THAT "THIS IS RECOGNIZED BY HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE U.S.", NAMING THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, AND SECRETARY RUMSFIELD, AND ADDING THAT "AND ON THIS SCORE THE OPINION OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IS OF COURSE A TELLING ONE."

3. FEDOROV COMMENTS THAT DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALT AGREEMENT "CERTAIN QUESTIONS CAN ARISE" ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SINGATORIES, BUT THAT THE SCC WAS CREATED TO TAKE CARE OF SUCH PROBLEMS. ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE, HE CONTENDS, TOLD A NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE IN THE U.S. THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE ALL SUCH MATTERS. FEDOROV ADDS THAT "I MIGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD QUESTIONS REGARDING SEVERAL ACTIONS BY THE U.S. IN RELATION TO THE OBLIGA-TIONS" UNDER THE SALT TREATY.

4. FEDOROV STATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION FIRMLY INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, AND ALSO REPEATS BREZHNEV'S ASSERTION THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS SEVERAL TIMES PROPOSED TO THE U.S. A LIMIT "NOT ONLY (ON)

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EXISTING TYPES (VIDY) OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS, BUT TO GO FURTHER: TO PROHIBIT EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS (SISTEMY) SUCH AS NEW SUBMARINES "OF THE TYPE (TIP)" TRIDENT, NEW STRATEGIC BOMBERS "OF THE TYPE B-1, AND ANALAGOUS SYSTEMS (SISTEMY) IN THE USSR.

5. COMMENT. FEDOROV'S REBUTTAL OF THESE ACCUSATIONS (HE NAMES SENATOR JACKSON AND ZUMWALT AS SOURCES) FOLLOWS FAIRLY CLOSELY THE LINE OF THE OBSERVER ARTICLE IN PRAVDA JAN 1 (REF A), ALTHOUGH IT IS MUCH BRIEFER AND LESS POLEMICAL. WHILE THE OBSERVER ARTICLE HAD CLEARLY STATED THAT NOT ALL OF THE SOVIET QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN CLEARED UP, FEDOROV, BY USING THE PAST TENSE IN REFERRING TO SUCH QUESTIONS, IMPLIES THAT THEY ARE A THING OF THE PAST.

6. THE SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUES TO PACKAGE BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON LIMITING THE B-1 AND TRIDENT AND SIMILAR SOVIET SYSTEMS IN MDW WRAPPING, AS IS MADE EVIDENT IN FEDOROV'S TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT ABOVE. WHILE USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 5 THAT BREZHNEV DID INDEED HAVE IN MIND THE MDQ CONTEXT WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE B-1 AND THE TRIDENT (REF B), A.N. KASHIRIN OF THE MFA DIVISION HANDLING THE QUESTION (KASHIRIN ADMITS TO HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO THE LENGTHY PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON THE MDW PROPOSAL DEC 16, 1975-- REF C), TOLD US IN A CONVERSATION ON THAT SAME DAY THAT THE B-1 AND TRIDENT "MOST DEFINITELY" WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THE MDW PROPOSAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TREATY VIOLATION, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0614
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760367/aaaacgqt.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 7, 76 MOSCOW 3359, 76 MOSCOW 18044
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVOYE VREMYA DENIES SALT VIOLATIONS, COMMENTS ON B-1 AND TRIDENT
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006